



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

December 13, 2006

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Dr. Patricia Ortiz

**SUBJECT: MENU LABELING REGULATIONS**

**Background and Summary**

On April 27, 2006, the Board received a petition from Dr. Margo Wootan, Director of Nutrition Policy, Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), requesting that the Board adopt rules requiring nutritional information on menus in fast food and chain restaurants as part of the Food Code. The petition was signed by 69 residents of Washington State. The letter was presented to the Board in May 2006.

The Board has authority under RCW 43.20.050(e) to adopt “rules for the prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases, including food and vector borne illness.” This is the authority for the Board’s existing Food Code, which focuses on the prevention of food-borne illness and does not address nutrition or chronic disease prevention.

The Board decided to deny this petition, but members expressed interest in having Dr. Wootan address the Board and to also invite members of the restaurant industry to learn more about what they are doing to improve the public’s ability to make healthy eating choices.

Today I have invited Dr. Margo Wootan to provide more about the Center for Science in the Public Interest’s initiatives related to menu labeling and promoting good nutrition. Background materials provided by CSPI and handouts for Dr. Wootan’s presentation are attached.

**Board Action Recommended**

None.